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PROLOGUE.

Those who have become accustomed to look for certain landmarks in current literature dealing with the evolution of particular industries will in the present instance miss much that is familiar. It has been conceived that the growth of the American silk industry has been profoundly influenced by only a few important factors, which have accordingly been given separate treatment in the several parts. The history of the industry is therefore viewed in longitudinal sections and not in chronological detail. Problems of promotion and capitalization, of combination and integration, of the size of the industrial unit, so prominent in many cases, are held to have played a wholly minor part in the development of the silk manufacture. Questions of wages and labor supply and of the competition of the industry for the several factors of production, have been grouped for consideration as parts of the larger factors through which they have exercised their influence.

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FRANK R. MASON.

Harvard University,
December 22, 1910.